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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Observations of *Ilyocoris cimicoides* (L.) (Hemiptera: Naucoridae) in flight.—Aquatic Hemiptera–Heteroptera exhibit a wide range of polymorphism in wing and flight muscle development (Savage, 1989). Southwood & Leston (1959) state that the Saucer Bug ‘... possesses fully-developed wings but such reduced musculature that no specimens yet examined have been able to fly; migration probably occurs by nocturnal walking...’

However this bug can often be found in isolated ponds, and must colonize these by some means other than walking. Accidental transference of eggs by waterfowl is one possibility, but the following observations indicate that some individuals disperse on the wing.

On 3–4.ix.1985 Tom Møller and the junior author observed large numbers of *I. cimicoides* flying from a pond in North Zealand, Denmark. Conditions were warm, sunny and calm. Several specimens were found basking on emergent leaves of *Typha*, whilst others sat on leaves of *Potamogeton natans*, and floating pieces of wood. Many took to the air when the breeze abated, but no specimens were seen to take off from the water surface in the manner of Corixids. Their flight was heavy and laboured, but they were able to avoid being caught in a small net. Several were unable to clear the surrounding vegetation and wall, and fell to the ground where they lay still. The stronger fliers appeared to disperse at random, and a soft humming could be heard as bugs passed at close quarters. On the 4.ix. hundreds of bugs took to the air, in a period of about 1 hour.

On 9.iii.97, a single *I. cimicoides* flew low over and landed on the water surface of a wide dyke on ‘the Pells’, near Lewes, E. Sussex (TQ4011). The weather was unseasonally hot and sunny, and many Corixids and aquatic beetles (*Heteroceris*, *Helophorus* etc.) were flying around.

Clearly some individuals/populations are able to fly, but it is clearly a rare phenomenon. How far such individuals can disperse is unknown, and the genetic or other factors that regulate this capacity remain enigmatic.—JONTY DENTON, 26 Bow St, Alton, Hants GU34 1NY & CHRISTIAN RØRDAM, Hammersholt Byvej 38, Borstingerød, 3400 Hillerød, Denmark.

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